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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SK ENERGY AND CHEMICAL INC.** [US/US]; 22-10 Route 208 South, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KWON, Taesoo** [/]; 35 Schneider Lane, Montville, NJ (US). **GU, Chen** [/]; 76 Roosevelt Avenue, Lake Hiawatha, NJ (US). **YANG, Soon-Ha** [/]; 1149-1 Bunji, Ilsan 4-dong, Ilsan Gu, Gyeonggi-do 411-828 (KR).

(74) Agent: **SWOPE, R., Hain**; Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, NJ-07102 (US).

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(54) Title: **IMPROVED SYNTHETON SYNTHESIS**

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure relates to an improved synthesis of the commercially important synthon ECHB starting from the readily available 3-hydroxy- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone. The reaction employs a single pot procedure without isolation or purification of the intermediates. It has the advantage over procedures previously employed in the art of using reagents and conditions which minimize undesired side reactions and which can be readily employed at commercial scale. The product is produced in high yield and is readily purified to provide an excellent intermediate for further synthesis of commercially important products such as L-carnitine and the pharmaceutically important active substances used in HMG-coA reductase inhibitor products such as Lipitor.

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